REMARKS

Claims 27 and 29-48 are pending and stand ready for further action on the merits.

Claim 27 has been amended to recite that the product has a porosity of 0.279-0.477 cm^3/g. Support for this range can be found in Table 1 on page 4 of the specification.

Claim 48 has been amended to recite that the cross-linking is performed with 1,4-dichloromethyl-2,5-dimethylbenzene. Support for this amendment can be found on page 3, line 18.

No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

The following sections correspond to the sections of the outstanding Office Action.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 27, 29-35 and 48 for containing new matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Specifically, the Examiner objects to the phrase "greater than 0.279 cm^3/g" in claims 27 and 48. The Examiner finds that this phrase adds new matter to the disclosure, since the only [illegible] to the porosity values given in Table 1 on page 4 of the specification are specifically, 0.279, 0.294, 0.319 and 0.477. The Examiner finds that the present [illegible] is not provided with [illegible]

0.477 which are included in the phrase "greater than 0.279 cm³/g".

In response, Applicants have amended claim 27 by replacing the phrase "the product has a porosity of greater than 0.279 cm³/g" with "the product has a porosity of 0.279-0.477 cm³/g."

Applicants respectfully submit that this porosity range does not add new matter, since the present disclosure placed in the possession of the public a macroreticular product having a porosity of 0.279-0.477 cm³/g.

First, at page 3, lines 27-31, the present inventors teach that the porosity of the product is related to the amount of crosslinking agent used. Specifically, the present inventors teach:

> To determine the absorption capacity the porosity is studied which was found to be low up to 4% of cross-linking agent **and then to increase**. (Emphasis added).

The fact that the present inventors state that the porosity increases with increasing crosslinking agent implies that there is a range of porosity values associated with the inventive macroreticular product.

Second, the endpoints of the range, 0.279-0.477 cm³/g, were taken directly from values disclosed in the specification.

In view of the foregoing, the amendment to claim 27 (0.279-0.477 cm³/g) does not add new matter to the disclosure and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph for containing a spelling error. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In response, Applicants have removed the spelling error. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claim 48 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103 over Meitzner et al. and Vulliez-Sermet et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

On page 4, lines 6-7, the Examiner states:

> Claims 27 and 29-35 would be found allowed if limited to a porosity value supported by the disclosure originally filed.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 27 to recite the range 0.279-0.477 cm^3/g, which, as described above, finds support in the disclosure. Accordingly, significant patentable distinctions exist between the present claims 27 and 29-35 and the cited references.

With respect to claim 48, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is patentable over the cited references, since none of the cited references teach or fairly suggest the use of the [illegible]

exist between the present claim 48 and the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above comments and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D. Reg. No. 43,575, at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: [illegible] 43,575
Raymond C. Stewart
Reg. No. 21,066

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Attachment: [illegible]

VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 27. (Twice Amended) A macroreticular product having a high potential to absorb organic solvents, wherein the product is formed by cross-linking a polymer so that the macroreticular product can molecularly enclose the organic solvent and the organic solvent adheres externally to the macroreticular product, wherein the polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, SEBS, elastomeric SBR and hydrogenated SBR, the crosslinking is performed with 1,4-dichloromethyl-2,5-dimethylbenzene as a crosslinking agent, and the product has a porosity of [greater than] 0.279-0.477 cm^3/g.

Claim 48. (Amended) A macroreticular product having a high potential to absorb organic solvents, wherein the product is formed by cross-linking a polymer so that the macroreticular product can molecularly enclose the organic solvent and the organic solvent can externally adhere to the product, wherein the cross-linking is performed with 1,4-dichloromethyl-2,5-dimethylbenzene, and wherein the polymer is at [lest] least one selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, SEBS, elastomeric SBR, and hydrogenated elastomeric SBR [and the

product has a porosity of greater than .2 cm/g].